



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR DECLARES SEPTEMBER
ARIZONA PREPAREDNESS MONTH
Thanks Operation Good Neighbor Volunteers***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today proclaimed September 2006 as Arizona Preparedness Month, joining hundreds of national, regional, state and local organizations that are taking part in National Preparedness Month 2006. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies or disasters and to encourage families to take action.

The announcement was made on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina at an event designed to thank all of the volunteers who assisted in the relief effort in Arizona over the last year.

As part of Arizona Preparedness Month, the Governor invited Arizonans to continue volunteering and reminded attendees of the importance of being prepared for future unforeseen disasters. “The devastation brought about by Hurricane Katrina provided us with many valuable life lessons, not the least of which is the importance of being prepared for the unexpected, both individually and as a community,” said Governor Napolitano.

The Governor also encouraged individuals and families to complete a family communications plan and carry emergency contact information in their purse or wallet at all times.

The event, called *Volunteer Heroes: Katrina and Beyond*, was attended by hundreds of volunteers representing community and faith-based organizations, agencies and businesses who gave selflessly of their time, talents and resources in the midst of our nation’s greatest natural disaster.

Approximately 35 to 40 agencies and organizations participated in the “preparedness fair” and set up exhibit booths to provide information on training and volunteer opportunities. Many of the individuals and organizations in attendance are still actively assisting with long-term recovery efforts for the evacuees who have started a new life for themselves in Arizona.